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incomparably the best work of its kind. No other interpreter illustrates so fully the range of significance appertaining to single words, the distinctions between reputed synonymes, and the use and force of particles. To him the Greek of the New Testament seems like his vernacular tongue, and he penetrates with surpassing skill into the different modes of self-consciousness indicated in different writers by their peculiarities of diction, or in the same writer at different times by his varying phraseology. His Commentary on the first three Gospels is based on their harmony, and presents their narratives blended where they coincide, and alternating in the order of events where their materials differ. As regards the Epistles, he abjures the aphoristic style of interpretation, from which some of the most distinguished expositors of recent times have not succeeded in working themselves wholly free, and his exegesis of every single text is derived from its context, and from the main purpose of the Epistle considered as an actual missive with a definite intent. From his conclusions we often dissent, and it seems to us that he occasionally detects in St. Paul philosophic subtleties which could have had birth nowhere save in modern Germany; yet, where we cannot accept his exegesis, we never fail to derive important aid from him in determining our own. The translation is admirably executed, and Professor Kendrick's revision very greatly enhances its value. The preliminary treatise on the Genuineness of the New Testament is at once clear, concise, and comprehensive, and constitutes an argument doubly precious and convincing from its having been constructed in a land rife with the various sophistries of sceptical criticism, to which it was the author's purpose to supply an availing antidote. The Commentary, having the Greek text for its basis, is not adapted to the use of a merely English reader; but it ought to be a table manual for every Biblical scholar. Moreover, the original so abounds in distinctions and shades of meaning, which are palpable only to one who has a native German's knowledge of that language, as to render the translation the preferable form for nineteen out of twenty who might after a fashion consult the work in German.

27.—*The English Bible. History of the Translation of the Holy Scriptures into the English Tongue. With Specimens of the Old English Versions.* By Mrs. H. C. CONANT, Author of Translations of Neander's Practical Commentaries. New York: Sheldon, Blake-man, & Co. 1856. 12mo. pp. 466.

THE title of this book explains its purpose and defines its scope; but

comparatively few are aware of the wealth of biography, history, and anecdote which this scope embraces. Mrs. Conant has shown herself fully adequate to the task. Her work includes full and detailed memoirs of Wickliffe and Tyndale, with sketches of the leading characteristics and personages of their respective times. Her style is clear, vigorous, and sprightly, glowing with the enthusiasm inspired by her subject, and gracefully adapting itself to the moods of feeling created by the varying fortunes of the Divine Word and its translators and propagators, now under the ban of the hierarchy, now on the career of progress and triumph, and through alternating pulses and waves of light and darkness slowly advancing from the dawn to the unclouded day of Scriptural knowledge and religious freedom.

28. — BACON'S *Essays: with Annotations* by RICHARD WHATELY, D. D., Archbishop of Dublin. From the Second London Edition, revised. New York: C. S. Francis & Co. 1857. 8vo. pp. 536.

THE *Essay* of Bacon's time was not a finished treatise, but the jotting down of fragmentary thoughts; and Bacon's *Essays*, though among the most suggestive writings of any age, have probably left on the mind of every reader a sense of incompleteness. They were seed-corn, which has germinated in harvests of varying quality according to the nature of the recipient soil. Their product in such an intellect as Whately's is well worth our study. The work before us grew from a series of annotations and appropriate extracts commenced for his own private use. It has the merit of grouping around the great variety of topics discussed in the original series a collection of the ripest and best thoughts of a master thinker, whose range of speculation and knowledge seems almost fabulous, yet who is never superficial, never a copyist, and whose capacity of putting other minds in action has hardly found its parallel since Bacon's lifetime.

29. — 1. *Poems*. By CHARLES SWAIN. Boston: Whittemore, Niles, and Hall. 1857. 16mo. pp. 304.
2. *The Poetical Works of* GERALD MASSEY. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1857. 16mo. pp. 301.

It is a unique feature of our times, that, of the English and American poets who hold the first place in the universal esteem, and who are the